

## [Louie Taren]

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Frances E. Totty Interview (?)

August 12, 1938

words

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When I was 8 years old I ran away from home with some cattle thieves and came to Silver City where I have lived off and on for the last sixty years. When I came here my father had me brought back home which was down below El Paso.

In the summer of 1884 my father with eleven other farmers of the valley decided to bring to Silver City fruit and vegetables as they sold very high here. grapes Grapes were 25 ¢ alb. apples two lbs. for 25¢ and other things in according. When we were nearing the Cookes [Pask?] country they were warned that the Indians were out and as this was one of the most dangerous part of the country they were warned to be as careful as possible. When they were nearing Cookes Peak the Indians attacked the ox drawn carts. The way of traveling at the time was in two wheeled carts with a fairly large bed toocarry to carry merchandise. The caravan was soon massacred and the complete load of merchandise was destroyed. hen When the new was brought back to the valley that the men had all been killed we were a heartbroken broken group of people. In my anger I swore that would get revenge as well as kill the Apache that killed my father, and bought a gun and started on the trail the very next day. I came back to Silver City, and believe it or not I have never killed an indians in all of travels over the frontier.

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I had been in Silver [?] City but as short time when I secured a a job herding sheep out at the present [Gowas?] peak, some six miles from Silver ity City . One day while herding the sheep [?] I saw the Indians coming, some were afoot, other horse back, and the women were pulling drags made by tying logs together. These drags were used to place the spoils of the trip on, and the women pulled them as well as doing all of thee the [?] for the warriors. There methods were very cruel. The Indians that I saw passed me as , I hid behind some rocks and went on down the road where they 2 massacred the Gomas family. I stood and watched them butcher small children unable to [do?] give them any aid what ever. I soon saw while the Indians were so intrested in [?] theiR spoils and mutilating the families that I could escape to town and let the people of ilver Silver City come to the scene. I rode to town as fast as possible, where the people formed a rescue party, but all to late we arrived back [at?] the scene[,?] as all of the people were dead, some were scalped [oother?] were badly burned over the fire while some of the children were hung on meat hooks. This part of the work was always left up to the squaws to do, which it seemed they took great delight, [and?] tried to see who could be the most cruel. [We?] followed the Indians over into the [?] country, but were unable to ever overtake tem them , but as long as we followed them we found a trail of blood. Over on the river we found where they had gone into a small hut, and killed an entire family, and placed one membe membeR of the family that wasn't dead from the attact, [oon?] the stove to burn they had held him by some means on the stove until he died, and then left him there to [?]. his This one illustration of their cruelty wasn't unusual.

I was never able to be in A conflict with the Indians no matter [no?] how badly I wanted to kill some of them and I still hate them for I feel that some of their parents were the one that killed my father. I have had to hide several times from as many as twenty five to a hundred Indians for I always knew that I would get killed if any of them were to see me as I was always alone [on?] the range when I saw them. I can speak a number of Indians dialect, but I learned them for commercial purposes rather than for my desire to asociate associate with the Indians.

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I was at one time the courier for this district. I have received twenty dollars more than once to go from [?] Silver City to the Black mill a distance of eighteen miles. I would leave town after dark on a company horse go to the mill with [a?] letter. Wake up who ever the letter was addressed to and get their answer and return to town. I did all of my [???] 3 after dark, as they were rather superstitious about fighting after sundown.

I have in my collection out at the ranch a number of intresting relics [?] which I intend to donate to the state in the near future.